insistent that the Japanese occupation was aggression and could never be legalized, but for the time being there seemed not the slightest chance that Japan would be dislodged.

After 1933 the Japanese army continued to edge forward in Inner Mongolia and in the northeastern provinces of China proper. In Inner Mongolia the Japanese endeavored to take advantage of the long struggle between Chinese and Mongols. The Chinese were chiefly farmers, seeking to push farther the cultivated land at the expense of the grazing grounds of the pastoral Mongols. Climatically the region was marginal. Not always was the rainfall sufficient to mature planted crops. Yet the Chinese pressure of population was so great that many were willing to take the risks. The Mongols were, quite naturally, antagonistic. The Japanese professed to side with the latter. However, the Mongol leaders found that Japanese occupation meant the substitution of annoying competitors by dominating masters and did not always willingly cooperate. By 1937 the Japanese were in control of most of Chahar, the province whch lay immediately to the west of Jehol. Presumably they would press on westward into Suiyiian. In 1933, as we hinted a few paragraphs above, by an arrangement known as the Tangku truce, the Chinese and Japanese agreed to withdraw their troops from an area in the northeast of the province of Hopei, thus demilitarizing a zone next to Manchuria. This would prevent effective Chinese efforts to regain Manchuria and marked a Japanese step southward of the Great Wall. In 1935 the Japanese constrained the Chinese entirely to remove one of their armies from Hopei, to dissolve units of the Kuomintang in the region, and to undertake to suppress

anti-Japanese activities. In 1935 there were rumors that Japan was planning the organization of an "autonomous" government, independent of Nanking and presumably under Japanese control, which would embrace Hopei, Shansi, Shantung, Chahar, and Suiyiian. Nanking sought to forestall the move by setting up a regime in the eastern part of Hopei which, while still affiliated with it, would be less objectionable to the Japanese.

Japan was serving warning on the rest of the world that it would not brook outside interference in its designs in China. In 1933 it proposed the close political and economic collaboration, through formal protocol, of itself, China, and Manchoukuo, but,